# AFRL-ML-WP-TM-2002-4142 BIOMIMETIC INFRARED (IR) SENSORS

Dr. Morley O. Stone

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Survivability & Sensor Materials Division
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**AUGUST 2002** 

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This technical report has been reviewed and is approved for publication.

MORLEY O. STONE, Project Leader

**Biotechnology** 

**Exploratory Development** 

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## 14. ABSTRACT

The objective of the program was to investigate naturally occurring infrared (IR) photosensitive materials for use in future systems. The work will concentrate on materials that are found in common pit vipers.

# 15. SUBJECT TERMS

infrared detector materials, photo-response

| 16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:                  |     |          | 19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON (Monitor)  |  |
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Laboratory Task Annual Report: 1 October 2000

TITLE: Biomimetic Infrared Sensing Initiative

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LAB TASK MANAGER: Morley Stone, Ph.D.

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I. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES / SUMMARY OF PROGRESS / FORECAST FOR FY01:

The research objectives and forecast for FY01 have been presented in the form of a new research proposal submitted to AFOSR entitled "Biomimetic Sensors and the Exploration of

Novel Optical Transduction Mechanisms."

Notable progress was made within our task during FY00. At the beginning of FY99, we

established a milestone for FY01 of "successfully demonstrating an optical sensing device based

on cloned thermoreceptive protein(s) from our 6.1 task." This milestone was reached this past

year with the cloning of TlpA from bacteria and using it to create a fusion protein with green

fluorescent protein (GFP). The resulting TlpA-GFP fusion protein produced a fluorescent signal

that was directly proportional to the temperature of the surrounding environment. The details of

this accomplishment were presented at Biosensors 2000 in San Diego, California and submitted

for publication to *Biosensors and Bioelectronics*.

This past January, we were the first to demonstrate the recording of biological

information, i.e., snake skin, inside a polymeric matrix using a two-photon initiated

photopolymerization process. The details of this accomplishment were presented at SPIE's

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Photonics West meeting in San Jose, California and published in the Proceedings of SPIE. This result was significant from an optical memory storage perspective and has enormous potential in the Bio-MEMS field. More importantly, we developed this process to be compatible with the addition of aqueous solutions, such as the addition of a thermoreceptive protein. In our opinion, this is an incredibly important enabling technology for biosensor creation because one can now pattern a polymeric optical device, e.g., a diffraction grating, whose performance (diffraction efficiency) is driven by the biological macromolecule (thermoprotein). The polymeric matrix enables the protein to retain activity and the two-photon process (near-IR) avoids the intrinsic biological absorption that usually occurs in a one-photon (near-UV) process.

This past year we also branched into the realm of biological inorganic chemistry.

Specifically, we cloned a protein from diatom (a marine algae) DNA that catalyzes the polycondensation of silica (-SiO<sub>2</sub>-). Again, we feel this is an extremely important accomplishment due to the desired optical properties that inorganics like silica possess — namely higher indexes of refraction. Recently, we discovered how to control the morphology of the resulting silica structures. The details of this process have been submitted as a manuscript to the journal *Nature*. We have begun combining this silica-condensing enzyme with our two-photon polymerization process to produce hybrid polymer/silica structures. Not only will we be able to produce better optical devices due to the larger index of refraction mismatch, we feel this will enable an important breakthrough in micro-fluidics. We envision creating a complex three-dimensional polymeric network, holographically, then bio-catalyzing the production of a silica coating on the outside, following by etching the polymer core away — leaving behind a silica network of micro-capillaries.

In conclusion, the forecast for FY01 is hopeful and optimistic. We feel we can continue to combine in-house-developed technology to create truly innovative science. We are optimistic that we can continue to improve upon our optical transduction methodology and we will continue to push the state-of-the-art in biosensor technology. The applied biotechnology that is biomimetics has made all of this possible. Biomimetics will continue to break new innovative ground, especially in the field of materials science.

# II. USE OF FUNDS (FY00, \$K):

| In House | <u>Capital Equip.</u> | On-Site Contractor | Contracts/Grants | Total  |
|----------|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------|
| 35       | 8.38                  | 357.33             | 10               | 410.71 |

# III. FUNDING PROFILE (\$K):

| <u>FY99</u> | <u>FY00</u> | <u>FY01</u> | FY02 |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|------|
| 487         | 487         | 485         | ?    |

## APPENDIX A

#### PERSONNEL:

| Name             | Degree  | Discipline Involve  | ement   |
|------------------|---|---|---|
| Morley Stone     | Ph.D.   | Biochemistry  | 60%   |
| Alexandra Nolan  | STEP Apprentic  | eship Program   | 50%*  |
| Cojean Wang      | STEP Apprenticeship Program   |   | 50%*  |
| Rajesh Naik      | Ph.D.   | Genetics  | 100%  |
| Lawrence Brott   | Ph.D.   | Materials Science   | 100%  |
| Laura Sowards    | MS  | Chemistry   | 100%  |
| Sharon Jones     | MS  | Molecular Biology   | 100%  |
| Bryan Jones      | BS  | Biomed Engineering  | 20%*  |
| Patrick Whitlock | MS  | Materials Science   | 50%*  |
| Isaac Humphrey   | USAF Academy Cadet 1  |   | 100%*   |
|                  | Alexandra Nolan Cojean Wang  Rajesh Naik Lawrence Brott Laura Sowards Sharon Jones Bryan Jones Patrick Whitlock | Morley Stone Alexandra Nolan Cojean Wang STEP Apprentic STEP Apprentic STEP Apprentic  Rajesh Naik Lawrence Brott Laura Sowards Sharon Jones Bryan Jones Patrick Whitlock Ph.D.  MS BS Patrick Whitlock | Morley Stone Alexandra Nolan Cojean Wang  Rajesh Naik Lawrence Brott Laura Sowards Sharon Jones Bryan Jones Ph.D. Biochemistry Biochemistry Biochemistry Biochemistry Biochemistry Biochemistry Biochemistry Biochemistry Brogram  Cenetics Chemistry Chemistry Biochemistry Brogram  Rajesh Naik Ph.D. Materials Science Chemistry Biomed Engineering Biomed Engineering Patrick Whitlock MS Materials Science |

<sup>\*</sup>Student and/or summer research personnel

## **Publications and Presentations in FY00:**

Whitlock P W, Naik R R, Brott L L, Clarson S J, Tomlin D W, Stone M O. (submitted) "Control of Biosilica Nanostructures by Motion," *Nature*.

Jones S W, Naik R R, Stone M O. (submitted) "Use of Small Fluorescent Molecules to Monitor Channel Activity," *Biochem. & Biophys. Research Comm.* 

Brott L L, Naik R R, Kirkpatrick S M, Pikas D J, Stone M O. (submitted) "Near-IR Two-Photon Induced Polymerization Using a Benzophenone-based Photoinitiator," *Macromolecules*.

Naik R R, Kirkpatrick S M, and Stone M O. (submitted) "Determination of the Two-Photon Cross-Section of Green Fluorescent Protein," *J of Physical Chem A*.

Naik R R and Stone M O. (submitted) "Applications—Biomimetic Electromagnetic Devices," <u>Encyclopedia of Smart Materials</u>, ed. James Harvey. John Wiley and Sons Inc, New York.

Jones B S, Lynn W F, Stone M O. (submitted) "Thermal Modeling of Snake Infrared Reception: Evidence for Limited Detection Range," *J Theoretical Biology*.

Naik R R, Kirkpatrick S M, and Stone M O (accepted) "The thermostability of an alpha-helical coiled-coil protein and its potential use in sensor applications," *Biosensors and Bioelectronics*.

Stone M O, Baur J W, Sowards L A, Kirkpatrick S M. (2000) "Ultrafast holographic recording of snake infrared pit tissue using two-photon induced polymerization," *Proceedings of SPIE* **3934**: 36-42.

Kirkpatrick S M, Denny L R, Stone M O. (2000) "Ultrafast holographic recording using two-photon induced photopolymerization," *Proceedings of SPIE* **3951**: 102-107.

Stone M. (June 2000) Invited Seminar, Department of Chemistry, University of Cincinnati.

Stone M. (October 2000) Invited Seminar, Department of Materials Science, University of Connecticut.

Brott L L, Kirkpatrick S M, Stone M O. (October 2000) "Biologically-compatible Polymeric MEMS Devices Fabricated Using Holographic Two-photon Induced Photopolymerization." *American Vacuum Society National Meeting*, Boston, MA.

Naik R R, Kirkpatrick S M, Stone M O. (May 2000) "Thermostability of an alpha-helical coiled-coil protein and its potential use in sensor applications." *Biosensors* 2000, San Diego, CA.

Sowards L A, Stone M O. (May 2000) "Beetle Melanophila acuminata (Coleoptera: Buprestidae) Infrared Pit Organ Characterization by LC/MS, SEM, and FT-IR." American Chemical Society Regional Meeting, Covington, KY.

Nolan A M, Naik R R, Stone M O. (March 2000) "Spectral variants of green fluorescent protein using DNA shuffling." *American Chemical Society National Meeting*, San Francisco, CA.

Naik R R, Kirkpatrick S M, Stone M O. (March 2000) "Nonlinear Fluorescent behavior of green fluorescent protein." *American Chemical Society National Meeting*, San Francisco, CA.

## **Professional Activities of Personnel**

Active Society Memberships:

American Chemical Society
American Association for the Advancement of Science
Materials Research Society
Genetics Society of America

**Extended Scientific Visits:** None